

## Retail Egg Prices Are Not Frozen

United Egg Producers, the nation's largest egg marketing cooperative, cautioned consumers Tuesday not to be concerned if they see egg prices at their retail outlets continue to fluctuate during the next 90 days.

Jerry Faulkner, Executive Vice President and General Manager, said fresh shell eggs are not subject to President Nixon's announced 90-day emer-

gency wage-price freeze. He said eggs in the shell are "raw agricultural products" which were exempted by the President.

Faulkner noted that egg prices for the past several months have been much lower than in recent years, and prices received by producers have been below the cost of production for some time. Had the President included eggs in the price freeze, Faulkner said, he would have locked many

## Pa. Requests Federal Poultry Plant Inspection

Pennsylvania has requested federal inspection for its intra-

state poultry plants, the US Department of Agriculture announced recently.

State officials have advised USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service that they are not in a position to develop an inspection program at least equal to the federal one, as required by the Wholesome Poultry Products Act, by the final deadline of August 18. As a result, USDA must assume inspection responsibility in the state, C&MS officials said.

Before beginning inspection, C&MS will have to survey each of Pennsylvania's non-federally inspected poultry plants — approximately 35 plants — to determine staffing needs and corrective measures plants must take to meet Federal requirements. Following these surveys, inspection personnel must be

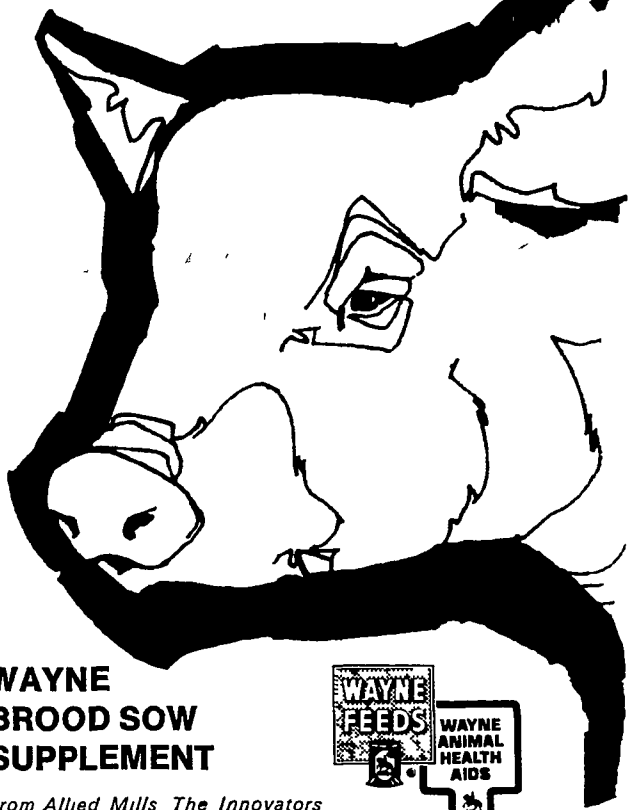
hired, trained and integrated into the existing Federal inspection system.

C&MS said Pennsylvania has been working to develop its own inspection program for intrastate plants. The Wholesome Poultry Act gave each State until Aug. 18, 1970, to develop a program at least equal to the federal one, and provided for an extension of one year for States making satisfactory progress. Pennsylvania was granted such an extension last August.

Intrastate poultry plants in 13 States became subject to Federal inspection in early January and plants in Kentucky and Nebraska will by Aug 31, 7 State programs have been certified equal to the Federal one, the remaining 27 States and Puerto Rico have until Aug 18 to complete their programs.

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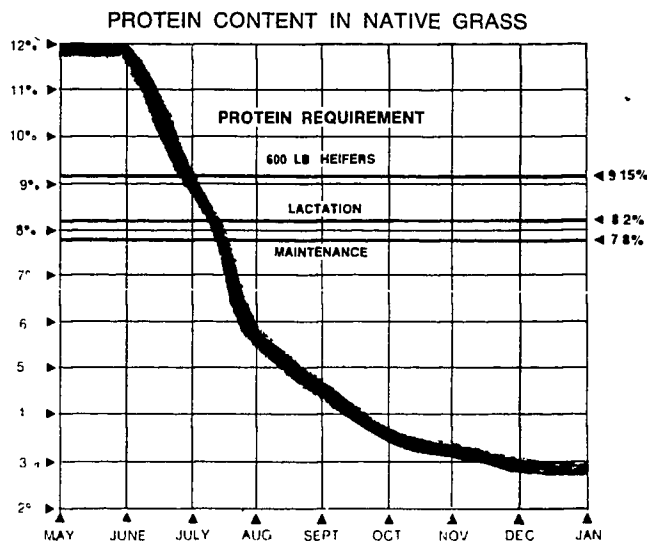
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## Milk Market Amended

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued an emergency final decision on a proposed amendment to the Middle Atlantic Federal milk marketing order.

USDA's Consumer and Marketing Service said the proposed amendment would increase from

15 to 25 per cent the allowable diversions to nonpool plants of cooperative and non-member milk for any months of September through February. Unlimited diversions to nonpool plants still would be permitted March through August.

Orderly marketing of reserve milk supplies requires that the amendment go into effect September 1. Therefore, the usual recommended decision and period in which to file exceptions have been eliminated, the USDA explained. This procedure was a consideration at the hearing, and C&MS officials said there was no opposition expressed.

The proposal is subject to approval by at least two-thirds of the dairy farmers serving the market. This will be determined by polling their cooperative associations, C&MS officials said.

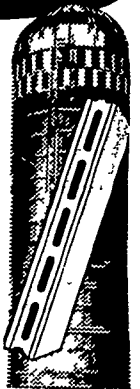
Today's final decision is based on evidence from a public hearing in Bala Cynwyd, July 26, held at the request of a Philadelphia-based dairy farmer cooperative.

Copies of this final decision may be obtained from the Market Administrator, Edward L. St. Clair, 710 S. Washington Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314, or from the Dairy Division, C&MS, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

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